

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 02816 301532Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 628

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: MLADENOV'S STATEMENT ABOUT FOREIGN MEDIA BEING ON SALE
IN SOFIA

REF: SOFIA 2811, PARAGRAPH 8

1. SINCE THE BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD CLAIMED ON DEC 29
THAT FOREIGN (NON-COMMUNIST) MEDIA ARE ON SALE AT LEAST IN
THE MAJOR SOFIA HOTELS, WE MADE A CHECK MORNING DEC 30.
RESULTS ARE NEGATIVE, EXCEPT FOR ONE PAPER HE MENTIONED,
NOVA MAKEDONIA, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS ON SALE PURSUANT TO
A CULTURAL-INFORMATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND
BULGARIA. EVEN THAT PAPER IS KEPT ONLY UNDER THE COUNTER
OF ONE HOTEL, AND OF COURSE YUGOSLAVIA IS NOT A WESTERN
OR NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRY.

2. LA ROCHEFOUCAULD HAS SAID THAT HYPOCRISY IS THE
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 02816 301532Z

HOMAGE THAT VICE PAYS TO VIRTUE. IN THIS SENSE, AND

ONLY IN THIS SENSE WHAT MLADENOV SAID REPRESENTS A MODICUM OF PROGRESS EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT BORNE OUT BY THE FACTS. FOR IF THE BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HIS COUNTRY OUGHT TO BE ADMITTING WESTERN NEWSPAPERS, AND CLAIMS THAT IT IS BEGINNING TO DO SO AND WILL DO MORE OF IT IN THE FUTURE, THIS IS AT LEAST SOMETHING TO WHICH WE CAN TRY TO HOLD HIM IN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISIONS OF CSCE.

3. OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE MADE ONLY ONE SMALL FORWARD STEP IN THIS FIRST OF WHAT SHOULD BE A SERIES OF SUCH CONVERSATIONS, IN WHICH HOPEFULLY OTHER NATO REPRESENTATIVES WILL BROADEN THE BREACH. I AM NOT ENTIRELY DISCOURAGED, THEREFORE, THAT WHAT MLADENOV TOLD US ABOUT FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS TURNS OUT TO BE AT LEAST PREMATURE. MOVEMENT IN THE MATTER OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS IS GOING TO BE SLOW, BUT PERHAPS WE HAVE MADE A BEGINNING.
HERZ

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